

Opportunity

By ALVAH J. GARTH

(See 1920, Western Newspaper Union.)

In a day Arnold Bruce found himself prominent in the eyes of his fellow citizens. He had led an easy-going, humdrum life in Woodville; had always earned a good living, had some property, and, by a curious switch in local politics, was nominated as a candidate to the state senate and was very proud and ambitious over the circumstance.

It was of his motherless daughter Myrtle that he first thought when public honor was thus thrust upon him. He had guarded her jealously since early girlhood, often mapped out mentally a career of social prominence, a husband with a future, but no one coming along who exactly answered to these requirements, the stubborn, self-opinionated old fellow had discouraged male company for Myrtle, and she had led a rather dreary and companionless life.

He was seated with her upon the porch engrossed in discussing his prospects and plans with her, meantime casually and indifferently eyeing a stranger seated on a lower step making way with a lunch Myrtle had given him. He was poorly dressed, unshaven, looked the tramp and homeless one, indeed; yet there was something about him that suggested better days. All the signs were of poverty and not of dissipation. He had a clear, intelligent eye, and when he had asked for food he had insisted first on earning it by weeding a garden patch. More than once his glance wandered to blithe, lissome Myrtle, and at the same time he took in what her father said:

"You can see I am in a predicament, Myrtle, and there seems to be no one here in Woodville who can help me out of it. Of course, right here at home, where all my friends live, I will get the full vote. The other counties have to be canvassed, though. In fact, I must have a smart, up-to-date campaign manager and some one to help me get up my speeches in presentable form."

Just then a girl friend came along the street and called to Myrtle, who joined her at the gate. Her father, left alone, looked somewhat surprised as the stranger, removing his tattered cap, came upon the porch.

"Mr. Bruce," he said, "I have been listening to what you have said about your political situation. I am fully experienced and prepared to act in your behalf."

"You!" ejaculated Bruce amazedly, scanning the trampish attire before him.

"Yes. Don't judge a down-and-out without knowing something more than the surface tells about him. You can call me Bertram Carlisle. That is not my name, but it will answer. I was for two years private secretary to the governor of a Western state. I managed a long campaign for him. I wrote his speeches and they re-elected him. Then hard luck came to me. Set me on my feet; give me a chance and see what I can do for you."

"If what you say is true," spoke Bruce, after a minute of meditation, "come to my office down-town in an hour."

The so-called Bertram Carlisle refused to tell more about himself when he appeared in response to the appointment. They had a long talk. Carlisle had not been particularly noticed in the town. Bruce trusted him with a hundred dollars, with instructions to get himself in shape in a neighboring town.

When Bertram Carlisle returned next day to Woodville he was like a new being. When Mr. Bruce took him to the house and introduced the well-groomed Mr. Carlisle to Myrtle, not for a moment did she connect him with the tramp of two days previous.

The young man soon proved his expertness, gaining the desirable publicity for his client, helping him frame his speeches and scoring a complete success. Bruce made a creditable campaign, was elected by a large majority and paid his helper a very liberal sum for his active co-operation.

It was six months later at the state capitol that father and daughter met Carlisle at a reception. Time had improved the young man and Myrtle looked startled when he was addressed as "Mr. Gage."

"That is my real name, Miss Bruce," explained the young man. "A wanderer, I was at odds with my father when you first knew me," but he did not then allude to his tramp experience.

That came later, after he had visited Myrtle at her home several times, and had expressed the love he felt for her and knew that she returned his affection.

"Do you think I care the less for you because you were estranged from your family and in poverty? Ah, no!" said Myrtle. "You were only a prince in tatters. You love me, that is all in all."

And Woodville never knew the true story of the engaging young man who had helped Arnold Bruce win his way and had won as his bride the belle of the village.

Life is made up of many such experiences, only in this instance at his darkest hour Bertram Gage seized an opportunity and made good.

"State senator and father-in-law," remarked Arnold Bruce to him warmly one day. "We will keep our secret, but fate brought you to my aid at the vital moment and fate has worked out a glowing destiny all around."

Improved X-Ray Photography. A glass for X-ray photography has been invented in Europe, which absorbs only from 10 to 15 per cent of the rays, permitting much sharper pictures to be made than heretofore.

BUILDING OPEN
TO THE PUBLICAuditorium Large Enough to
House Conventions, Mass
Meetings and Institutes

The memorial auditorium and gymnasium to be erected on the Alma College campus will serve many community and county needs. The College authorities have announced that the auditorium will be open for public meetings of a civic or patriotic nature. The structure is therefore admirably adapted for institutes, county conventions, and mass meetings at which large numbers of people are expected to gather.

The gymnasium is sixty feet wide by ninety feet long with a floor area fifty by seventy arranged for basket ball, indoor baseball and all drills or exercises requiring free space. The modern requirement, space for spectators of athletic contests, has been met by the planning of balconies or raised steps giving space and view to about three hundred and fifty persons. A stage is provided at the end so that the gymnasium may be used for auditorium purposes when desired and with the central floor and balconies would seat about nine hundred persons. Roof trusses provide the means for suspending gymnasium apparatus and for supporting it above when the room is used for assemblies.

This room will be brilliantly lighted by cleft story windows and a large skylight. The windows provide superior means of natural cross ventilation. All interior wall surfaces will be of impervious brick. The same conditions of light, ventilation and impervious walls prevail in the natatorium.

The bath departments are so located as to give access to the gymnasium while the women are using the natatorium or the reverse, thus using either department by either sex and both at one time. Heat will be supplied from the central power plant. A dressing room for visiting teams is shown adjacent to the baths, as well as an office and examination room for the physical director.

The estimated cost of construction is \$110,000.00 of which approximately \$45,000.00 would be required for the auditorium, \$35,000 for the natatorium and \$15,000.00 each for the bath and locker divisions.

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CLEAN-UP WEEK

Civic Improvement League Clean-Up
Man Around Next Week.

The annual clean-up of the city, in which the Civic Improvement league is always one of the prime factors, will be held next week, and residents of the city are urged to be ready when the clean-up man when he arrives.

The Civic League asks that all ashes, scraps, cans, etc., be out in the alley where it can be reached handily by the clean-up man, so that it may be removed and a further step towards a cleaner Alma made. This method of cleaning up the refuse and rubbish that has accumulated during the winter, is one of the very helpful measures that the Civic League has for aiding Alma people in cleaning up their yards each year, and they should be interested enough in the matter to co-operate to the fullest extent in making Alma a cleaner, healthier city in which to live.

KILLED SELF AT STANTON

Stanton, Mich., April 5.—(Special) Niles Hamp, aged about 23 years, manager of a cream station here, shot himself Monday evening. No motive is known for the act. He is survived by his wife, his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Truman Hamp, two brothers and two sisters.

YOUNG STUMP PULLER WORKS
HIS WAY AT THE COLLEGE

(Continued from page one) penditure per student tends to increase. The per cent of students who work their way in an institution at which 500 young men and women are registered is less than the per cent that work their way in an institution at which there were only 200 enrolled. Five hundred students at Alma College means that there will be expended in this community during the college year more than \$300,000.

Five hundred students mean a larger faculty, more buildings, increased endowment.

What part will this community play in the plan to establish the Greater Alma College? It is possible that here and there will be found who, so far as they are concerned, will deny the college its chance to render an increased service simply because it is located in the city of Alma. Against such a view only time and tolerance can prevail.

Men and women in distant parts of the state are bending every effort to make the Greater Alma possible. What will the home-folks do? The pending campaign brings to them the necessity not only of passing judgment upon the worth of the work the college is doing but of recording their interests in that work.

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Gratiot county awaits the verdict of the state, and the state awaits the verdict of Gratiot county.

"Chrvgasaeuenealfinajuarigaejack" is Eskimo for "I love you," and at the same time it is a reasonable explanation why Arctic nights have to be so long.—Exchange.

Try the homemade salads and salad dressing Saturday at the Wolverine Dairy.—adv 1w

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